

Message Text

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54

ACTION EUR-12

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USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, US, NO

SUBJECT: MEDIA INTERVIEW BY FORMER MILITARY ATTACHE CRITICAL OF
NORWEGIAN DEFENSE

REF: OSLO 4336

1. MAGAZINE "NAA" INTERVIEW WITH FORMER US DEFENSE ATTACHE
COL. MARLOW SORGE WRITTEN BY JOURNALIST ERIK SLETTOLT CONTAINED
REFTEL IS CRITICAL OF NORWAY'S DEFENSE EFFORTS IN A NUMBER OF
AREAS AND IS EXPECTED TO RAISE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS HERE.

2. EMBASSY PLANS TO REPLY TO PRESS OR PUBLIC INQUIRIES ON
INTERVIEW ORALLY ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:
"MR. SORGE GAVE INTERVIEW AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN. HE WAS EXPRESSING
HIS PERSONAL VIEWS AND AS SUCH DID NOT SPEAK FOR THE US GOVERNMENT."

3. IF PRESSED FURTHER WE PLAN TO REPLY:
"ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL NOT GO INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ARTICLE
WRITTEN BY MR. SLETTOLT OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT THE US AND
NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENTS--AS CLOSE ALLIES--ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT
BOTH BILATERALLY AND THROUGH NATO ABOUT OUR MUTUAL DEFENSE
INTERESTS. WE FEEL WE HAVE EXCELLENT COOPERATION, AND THOUGH
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THERE ARE DETAILS OF ANY DEFENSE POSTURE THAT CAN BE DEBATED

WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH NORWAY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE."

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SUGGESTIONS OR GUIDANCE THAT
DEPT OR USMISSION NATO WISHES TO PROVIDE ON ARTICLE OR QUESTIONS
RAISED IN IT.

ANDERS

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